

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CALVIN GEORGE MORET

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Calvin George Moret, the last surviving Louisiana member of the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of African-American pilots who fought in World War II and were the first African-American pilots in the United States military. Mr. Moret passed away on September 12, 2015, at the age of 90.

Mr. Moret entered the military in 1943 and trained as a military pilot at Tuskegee, Alabama, receiving his wings and commission as a Flight Officer on November 20, 1944. His preparation for overseas combat duty continued through the end of the war in Europe and then through the end of the war in the Pacific. He was discharged from military service on January 31, 1946.

Following his discharge from military duty he returned to the family printing business, Moret Press. To help the family business Moret needed to look outside of New Orleans for school, because segregation laws prohibited him from studying at Delgado Trade School. He was able to gain admission to the printing department at Southern University in Baton Rouge and completed the course.

Mr. Moret's flying experience did not stop upon discharge from the military. In the spring of 1949, he and his brother Adolph, who had learned to fly before the war, formed a flying club. Along with twenty other men, they purchased a 3-place Piper Super Cruiser airplane and hangered it at Lakefront Airport in New Orleans until the summer of 1953, where they introduced members to the miracle of human flight.

On June 17, 2008, as a result of Hurricane Katrina and the flooding aftermath that decimated the city, Moret Press was destroyed and the family was separated for months. The business has not operated since the Friday before the hurricane struck.

Following the release of "The Tuskegee Airmen" movie in 1995, Mr. Moret frequently lectured about his experiences and promoting the proud history of African-American accomplishments in American life.

In 2007, Mr. Moret was present when he Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal in the rotunda of the Capitol.

Mr. Moret was a trailblazer, clearing the path for countless men and women of color to enter the military and fight to defend their country. He will be sorely missed by his family, his friends, and all of those who are able to pursue their dreams because of his courage. His memory will serve an inspiration for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, as a beneficiary of Mr. Moret's courage, commitment and sacrifice, I celebrate his life and legacy, because he has made America a more perfect union.

HONORING WILLIS "WALLY"
WALLING

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Willis R. Walling, who died on Wednesday, September 9, 2015, at the age of ninety-four. Affectionately known as "Wally" to me and many others, he will be missed.

Born in Newark, NJ, he was the son of the late Willis H. and Gladys R. Walling.

Those who knew Wally would say some of his fondest memories were of the time he spent serving as a fighter pilot in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. You might even call his adventures "legendary," with sixty-six missions in Europe and becoming the tenth Allied plane to land in France after D-Day. He was one of the greatest supporters of the Allied Forces through France and beyond.

After leaving the service, he and his wife, Peg, moved to New Jersey where he served as President of Swan Manufacturing in Rockaway, NJ. It was during his time in Rockaway that he and Peg became active in the New Jersey Republican Party where he served as chairman for a period of time.

As many Northerners do, he and Peg moved south after retirement. Lucky for us South Carolinians, they chose Pawleys Island as their new home. They both quickly became active in local politics. I had the pleasure of meeting Wally during my first run for Congress in 1994 and have since appreciated his kindness and hospitality. Of course, you appreciate everyone who joins you in the heat of battle on the campaign trail, but it is the ones who are with you from the beginning who you hold closest to your heart. Wally was one of the loyal ones who would stick with you.

Loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage are the seven values of the Army, and Wally was a man who exemplified every one of them. His surviving daughters, Susan Houser, Jeanne Auermuller (Bob), and Diane Dunham (Phil), eight grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren can be proud of the man they called "Dad" or "Grandpa," and I have no doubt that they would be. They will miss him dearly . . . and I will too.

IN RECOGNITION OF SEPTEMBER
18, 2015 AS THE UZEYIR
HAJIBEYLI MEMORIAL DAY

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Uzeyir Hajibeyli Memorial Day, celebrated on September 18, 2015.

Uzeyir Hajibeyli was born in the City of Agjabadi in Azerbaijan on September 18, 1885. He is recognized as the father of Azerbaijani classical music, as well as the founder of the first opera, Leyli and Majnun (1908), and first operetta The Cloth Peddler (1913) in the Muslim world. Arshin Mal Alan (The Cloth

Peddler), is a romantic and musical comedy that delves into a young couple's struggle to live a modern lifestyle in the presence of restricting customs through pure love and women's rights.

In 1945, a cinematic version of the operetta was filmed in Azerbaijan and became an instant box office sensation. It remains today an important cultural touchstone across Eurasia, having been widely distributed in 86 languages and shown in 136 countries.

Uzeyir Hajibeyli was influential in both cultural and historical contexts. Hajibeyli was responsible for a new genre of music which evolved from the culmination of traditional Azerbaijani music and European classical opera. He is recognized as a leader in fighting illiteracy throughout the nation. As not only a musician but as a teacher and journalist, he inspired a new cultural movement throughout the nation that transcended the country's borders. Further, Hajibeyli is responsible for composing the first national anthem of Azerbaijan. Uzeyir Hajibeyli played an active role in the creation of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic founded in 1918.

As today marks the 130th anniversary of Uzeyir Hajibeyli's birth, I am honored to recognize him today for his valuable contributions towards the world of music and to Azerbaijan.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF REVEREND JOSEPH C. PROFIT,
JR.

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Joseph C. Profit, Jr., a pastor of Stronger Hope Baptist Church, who passed away on September 4, 2015, at the age of 80.

Reverend Profit dedicated fifty years to the Stronger Hope Baptist Church and was a leading civil rights activist in New Orleans. He served as the fifth president of the Ideal Missionary Baptist and Educational Association, Inc. and Regional Vice President of the Louisiana Baptist State Convention. Rev. Profit also participated in the Baptist World Alliance in Stockholm, Sweden, as a delegate.

After Hurricane Katrina, Rev. Profit was a leader in rebuilding New Orleans—physically and spiritually. Although he evacuated to San Antonio, Texas, Reverend Profit drove to New Orleans every other weekend to hold service, and finally in 2008, he completely rebuilt The Stronger Hope Baptist Church with the help of his loyal congregation. The Church sits on the corner of South Galvez and First Street, where it has rested since 1937.

To honor Reverend Profit, who was a vital asset to the New Orleans community of faith, we acknowledge the importance of faith and culture in resilience. To commemorate Rev. Profit and his irreplaceable legacy, we remember his life-long contribution to the city of New Orleans and we strive to continue his messages of faith, hope, and unity.

Mr. Speaker, as a beneficiary of Reverend Profit's courage, dedication and undying faith, I celebrate his life and legacy, because he has made America a more perfect union.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
EDWARD L. FIRE

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Edward L. Fire of Chagrin Falls, Ohio who passed away on Wednesday, July 1, 2015. Edward was the son of Frank and Pauline Fire. He was a 1954 graduate of Lowellville High School and attended Youngstown State University. Following his education, Edward served in the U.S. Navy shortly after graduation at age 17 in 1954 until 1958.

In addition to serving in the armed forces, Ed was an active force in labor. Ed's career as a union leader began in 1961 at Packard Electric in Warren, where he served in elected office for 40 plus years. His leadership roles included President of the 13,000 member IUE Local 717 at Delphi Packard, Vice President of the Ohio AFL-CIO, and Secretary-Treasurer of the 80,000 member IUE District 7, headquartered in Kettering, OH. Ed loved every aspect of his job helping people have good jobs with good pay. The highlights of his career included leading the Union's bargaining teams with major corporations, GM, GE, and Delphi. He led IUE's efforts in the merger with the CWA. He also led the Union's political action efforts, including being actively involved in the campaigns of Presidents Lyndon Johnson, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton as well as Ohio Governor Dick Celeste, Senators John Glenn, Howard Metzenbaum and SHERROD BROWN.

He is survived by his wife Margaret Fire of Chagrin Falls, three sons Dino (Pamela) Fire of Jenson, MI, Patrick Fire of Myrtle Beach, SC and Ted (Melissa) Fire of Stow, MA, three granddaughters Morgan and Lina Fire and Capri (George) Kandris, two grandsons Sam and Jake Fire, a sister Jeanette Farley of Warren and several nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Charles Fire and four sisters Margaret Fire, Ida Marino, Rosemarie Whalen and Ann Fire.

There is no doubt that Ed's effort helped to improve the lives of countless workers in Northeastern Ohio, and across the country. I was deeply saddened to hear of his passing, but I am honored to pay tribute to such a selfless man.

RECOGNIZING THE INAUGURATION
OF DR. REBECCA CHOPP

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Rebecca Chopp on the occasion of her inauguration as the chancellor of the University of Denver. An advocate for education, inclusivity and community, Dr. Chopp brings decades of leadership experience and success to DU. As a first-generation college student, she understands the importance of access to college for all and the need to continue to mentor and nurture students for their success and that of their community.

After earning a BA from Kansas Wesleyan University and a Master of Divinity from St.

Paul School of Theology, Dr. Chopp went on to receive her PhD from the University of Chicago. She has received six honorary doctorates from additional institutions and distinguished awards from each of her alma maters. Dr. Chopp has served as dean at Yale Divinity School, as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Emory University, and as president of Swarthmore College and Colgate University. She is also a widely published author.

While at Swarthmore, Dr. Chopp was committed to admitting the most highly qualified students without regard to financial circumstances, and she supported innovative ways to build new, inclusive communities motivated to contributing to the common good. Though she took the reins during the middle of the Great Recession, she steered Swarthmore through this time without cutting faculty or financial aid. Dr. Chopp was the first woman to serve in several of her previous roles and is the first woman chancellor for DU. She is a true role model and trailblazer.

Dr. Chopp joined the University of Denver in September of last year as its 18th chancellor. Within her first 100 days she announced Imagine-DU, a community-wide effort that focused on transforming the student experience, expanding the design of knowledge, and engaging in new ways with the surrounding areas. Chancellor Chopp envisions the University of Denver as an institution capitalizing on the changes and opportunities that come of an institution invested in the 21st Century. In addition, she already has several new innovative projects including serving a more diverse student body and building the next generation of leaders with the establishment of the Latino Leadership Institute, addressing the needs of an aging population in the Knebel Center for the Study of Aging, and a new interdisciplinary approach to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with the Daniel Felix Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Dr. Chopp has been quoted as saying, "As in any university, the most important resource is its people." In her case, that could not be more true. She will be an invaluable resource to DU. Please join me in commending Dr. Rebecca Chopp for her continued commitment and passion for education and community. Her persistence and dedication are an inspiration to build a better future for all who live in Colorado.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 22ND ANNUAL PERSONAL
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM
THE HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITA-
TION HOSPITAL OF ALTOONA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winners of the 22nd annual Personal Achievement Award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona, given to encourage and reward those who have made an outstanding effort to deal with or overcome a disability. This year, I congratulate: Barbara Horne of Hollidaysburg, Larry Snyder of Hollidaysburg and Isaac Snowberger of Roaring Spring.

Barbara Horne is the recipient of a HealthSouth Personal Achievement Award. Barbara was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother until August 31, 2014, when tragically struck and changed her life forever. Barbara was diagnosed with an acute brain stem stroke which caused her to have garbled speech, double vision and limpness on her right side. Shortly thereafter, she developed a urinary tract infection. She was dialysis dependent and was given a small percentage of survival. With hard work, determination and assistance from her family, she overcame these obstacles. Barbara actually walked out of HealthSouth's facility at discharge on November 5, 2014, and now walks without the assist of a device. She's been able to return to her active lifestyle.

Larry Snyder is also the recipient of a Personal Achievement Award. On April 3, 2013 Larry sustained a life-changing injury to his dominant right hand when it was crushed between the couplings of two railroad cars. Larry underwent a total of 7 surgeries to repair vascular, skin, bone, nerve, and tendon damage sustained in the accident. Surgeons were able to save Larry's hand, but had to amputate his thumb. He also lost much of the sensation to his remaining fingers, leaving his hand essentially non-functional. Larry was a year away from retirement, after a lifetime of work in the local railroad shops, when he sustained this injury. With the help of his family and friends, he has fought discouragement by keeping an optimistic and cheerful attitude, and learned to make his left hand the dominant one.

Isaac Snowberger is also the recipient of a Personal Achievement Award. For Isaac and his family, June 21, 2015 will be a day they will never forget. Normally healthy and active, Isaac collapsed at home due to an arteriovenous malformation in the brain. His parents were able to revive him, and he was taken immediately to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh for surgery. Due to his injury, he had some weakness in his right side, balance issues, double vision and swallowing difficulties. But Isaac remained in good spirits and has made rapid progress in therapy. With his family's help, he is now walking well, and has achieved his main goals of returning to high school and participating in garden tractor pulling events.

Congratulations to Barbara, Larry and Isaac. Their accomplishments are a testament to us all that with hard work, persistence and a big heart, we can overcome any hardship. I honor each of them for their perseverance, and I wish them the best as they continue to overcome illnesses and disabilities while setting an example for the rest of the community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF ALICE THOMPSON

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alice Marie Thompson, a civil rights icon and Freedom Rider, who passed away on August 24, 2015.

Alice was born on September 25, 1939, the sixth of eight children, born to Cora Mae Atlas and John Henry Thompson, Sr. and was the